

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-9. Cancelled.

Claim 10 (Currently amended). A transgenic plant stably transformed with a nucleic acid molecule comprising having a nucleic acid sequence that encodes a protein comprising (1) a Hd-Zip domain that binds a 5'-CAAT(A/T)ATTG-3' DNA sequence attached to (2) SEQ ID NO:30 selected from the group comprising SEQ ID N° 1, SEQ ID N° 2 and fragments thereof, wherein the nucleic acid molecule encodes the transcription factor Hahb-4 or a functionally active fragment or variant thereof, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is expressed in the plant and the expression of the nucleic acid provides an increased tolerance to drought as compared to a wild type variety of such plant under the same conditions.

Claims 11-13. Cancelled.

Claim 14 (Original). The transgenic plant of claim 10, wherein the plant is a monocot.

Claim 15 (Original). The transgenic plant of claim 10, wherein the plant is a dicot.

Claim 16. Cancelled.

Claim 17 (Currently amended). A plant seed stably transformed with a nucleic acid molecule comprising having a nucleic acid sequence that encodes a protein comprising (1) a Hd-Zip domain that binds a 5'-CAAT(A/T)ATTG-3' DNA sequence attached to (2) SEQ ID NO:30 a sequence selected from the group comprising SEQ ID N°1, SEQ ID N°2 and fragments thereof, wherein the nucleic acid molecule encodes the transcription factor *Hahb-4* or a functionally active fragment or variant thereof, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is expressed in the seed and the expression of the nucleic acid provides an increased tolerance to drought as compared to a wild type variety of such plant seed under the same conditions.

Claim 18 (Currently amended). A plant host cell that has been stably transformed with a nucleic acid molecule comprising having a nucleic acid sequence that encodes a protein comprising (1) a Hd-Zip domain that binds a 5'-CAAT(A/T)ATTG-3' DNA sequence attached to (2) SEQ ID NO:30 having a sequence selected from the group comprising SEQ ID N°1, SEQ ID N°2 and fragments thereof, wherein the nucleic acid molecule encodes the transcription factor *Hahb-4* or a functionally active fragment or variant thereof, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is expressed in the plant host cell.

Claims 19-20. Cancelled.

Claim 21 (Currently amended). A method of producing a water stress tolerant transgenic plant, the method comprising:

stably transforming a plant cell or cell culture with a nucleic acid molecule comprising having a nucleic acid sequence that encodes a protein comprising (1) a Hd-Zip domain that binds a 5'-CAAT(A/T)ATTG-3' DNA sequence attached to (2) SEQ ID NO:30 the nucleic acid sequence selected from the group comprising SEQ ID N° 1, SEQ ID N° 2 and fragments thereof, wherein the nucleic acid is expressed in the plant cell or cell culture; and

regenerating the cell or cell culture cells or cell cultures into a plant plants.

Claims 22-40. Cancelled.

Claim 41 (New). The transgenic plant of claim 10, wherein said nucleic acid sequence encodes SEQ ID NO:24.

Claim 42 (New). The transgenic plant of claim 10, wherein said nucleic acid sequence is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 43 (New). The plant seed of claim 17, wherein said nucleic acid sequence encodes SEQ ID NO:24.

Claim 44 (New). The plant seed of claim 17, wherein said nucleic acid sequence is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 45 (New). The plant host cell of claim 18, wherein said nucleic acid sequence encodes SEQ ID NO:24.

Claim 46 (New). The plant host cell of claim 18, wherein said nucleic acid sequence is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 47 (New). The method of claim 21, wherein said nucleic acid sequence encodes SEQ ID NO:24.

Claim 48 (New). The method of claim 21, wherein said nucleic acid sequence is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2.